

**County of Moore**  
**Department of Health**  
**705 Pinehurst Avenue • P.O. Box 279**  
**Carthage, North Carolina 28327**

Robert R. Wittmann, M.P.H.  
Director

Telephone: 910-947-3300  
Medical Records Fax: 910-947-1663  
Administration Fax: 910-947-5837

**Release:** Immediate  
**Contact:** Robert R. Wittmann, M.P.H.  
910-947-3300

**Date:** March 21, 2011

**World TB Day 2011**  
**TB Elimination: Together We Can!**

World TB Day is March 24. This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis (TB). At the time of Dr. Koch's announcement, TB was raging through Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Dr. Koch's discovery opened the way towards diagnosing and curing TB.

World TB Day serves as a reminder that TB is still one of the leading causes of death from infectious disease across the world. It affects people not only in isolated, poor communities or in far-off countries, but also right here in Moore County and other communities across the state.

TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB germs are passed through the air when someone who is sick with TB disease coughs, speaks, laughs, sings, or sneezes. People near the sick person can breathe TB germs into their lungs and may become infected.

"Tuberculosis is a serious disease that can have devastating consequences", according to Patty Kempton, Communicable Disease/Tuberculosis Nurse with the Moore County Health Department. "A person with active TB may easily infect people they spend time with. The Health Department works with the individual diagnosed with TB and also interviews and tests the immediate family and close contacts. Treatment for active TB may last from six months to two years. The Health Department also offers treatment for individuals in our community who have been identified as having latent TB infections to prevent them from becoming sick with active TB."

In North Carolina, 250 active cases of TB were reported in 2009, down 25% from 335 reported cases in 2008. North Carolina ranked 26<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in TB case rates in 2009. In 2010, 3 cases of TB were reported in Moore County.

(page 1 of 2)

***"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."***  
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

Environmental Health  
Telephone: 910-947-6283  
Fax: 910-947-5127

Animal Center  
Telephone: 910-947-2858  
Fax: 910-947-5952

WIC  
Telephone: 910-947-3271  
Fax: 910-947-2460

*County of Moore*  
*Department of Health*  
*705 Pinehurst Avenue • P.O. Box 279*  
*Carthage, North Carolina 28327*

Robert R. Wittmann, M.P.H.  
Director

Telephone: 910-947-3300  
Medical Records Fax: 910-947-1663  
Administration Fax: 910-947-5837

Worldwide, 9.4 million new cases of TB were diagnosed and 1.7 million deaths were caused by TB in 2009. TB is also the leading cause of death among people with HIV. In the U.S., TB rates have been declining and are now at an all-time low, but TB has not disappeared in the country. In 2009, more than 11,500 cases of TB disease were reported in the United States. While most cases of TB can still be successfully treated with antibiotics, the number of drug-resistant TB cases has been increasing as a percentage of total cases of TB disease in the United States.

The Moore County Health Department and the North Carolina Public Health TB Control Program work together to rapidly identify and treat people with TB in our community, and to prevent new transmission of disease. With appropriate public health intervention and management, TB can be cured through treatment and medication, and spread of disease to other people can be halted.

For more information about TB, visit the North Carolina TB Control Program's web site at [www.epi.state.nc.us.epi/tb](http://www.epi.state.nc.us.epi/tb) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site at [www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb).

(page 2 of 2)

#####

*"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."*  
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

Environmental Health  
Telephone: 910-947-6283  
Fax: 910-947-5127

Animal Center  
Telephone: 910-947-2858  
Fax: 910-947-5952

WIC  
Telephone: 910-947-3271  
Fax: 910-947-2460